



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Betty Wu et al.

Art Unit : 1743

Serial No. : 10/014,519

Examiner : Brian J. Sines

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Title : METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR RELEASING INTRACELLULAR
MATERIAL FROM CELLS WITHIN MICROFLUIDIC SAMPLES OF FLUIDS

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**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT AND PRELIMINARY
AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed November 26, 2003, Applicant submits the following amendments and remarks. In accordance with the Extension of Time submitted herewith, the time for response is understood to extend through January 26, 2004.

Amendments To The Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A microfluidic device for processing a cell-containing microdroplet, comprising:

a lysing zone configured to receive a cell-containing microdroplet; [[,]]
a positioning element to position the cell-containing microdroplet in a lysing position with
respect to the lysing zone; and a lysing mechanism to release intracellular material from cells
within the lysing zone [[, and]] ~~a positioning element to position the cell-containing microdroplet~~
~~in a lysing position with respect to the lysing zone.~~

2. (Original) The microfluidic device of claim 1, wherein the cell-containing microdroplet comprises cells entrained in a liquid.